



MARRIAGE: God's Original Specs

A MARRIAGE TUNE UP

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25

Sunday, September 26, 2021

MARRIAGE: The Present State

The preacher is responsible for giving you the **INFORMATION** from God's word that will help energize your marriage. And YOU ... you're responsible for the **INTEGRATION** of it!

Integration means changing the way we **THINK** about marriage, the way we **FEEL** in marriage, and how we **ACT** in marriage. Marriage takes a lifetime commitment. I hope when we're done that you have a renewed commitment to your marriage and more hope for the future.

But, if you are single or single again, how can you participate in a series like this?

You may be single for a season. God may be preparing you to be married. God may be making you into the type of individual who will be a marvelous companion.

You may have married friends so this series will help you understand the situations and circumstances they are going through. It will give you a better understanding of how to pray for them and encourage them.

You're also going to see pictures from marriage that God the Father uses to illustrate His own relationship with you!

MARRIAGE: God's Original Specifications

Genesis 1:26 (NASB) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ... 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

1. Each individual, male and female, is made in the IMAGE of God. 1:26-27

- Women and men are equally honored in **CREATION**. They are made in the image of God (1:27) and God blesses both of them (1:28). In Genesis 2:23, Adam describes Eve as *"bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh..."* This is Adam saying, *"She's just like me!"*
- Men and women are equally honored in **CHRIST**. Galatians 3:27 (NLT) *"And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like Him. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians - you are one in Christ Jesus."*
- Women and men are equally honored with the riches of God's **GRACE**. Peter writes in 1 Peter 3:7 (NASB) *"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way ... show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life ..."*

Genesis 2:18 (NASB) *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone..."*

2. God describes man's being alone as "NOT GOOD." 2:18a

Genesis 2:18 (NASB) *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.*

3. God's design included a SUITABLE companion. 2:18b-20

Genesis 2:21 (NASB) *So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman [ishah], because she was taken out of Man [ish]."*

4. God's design allows Him to be the ARCHITECT of the relationship. 2:21-23

Psalms 127:1 (NASB) *"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."*

- Since men and women are different, we need to ACCEPT our spouse as different.
- Since God uniquely designs men and women, we need to APPRECIATE our spouse.
- Since men and women are designed to support each other, we need to think of ourselves as a TEAM.

Genesis 2:24 (NASB) *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

5. God's goal for your marriage is for you and your mate to become "ONE-FLESH." 2:24-25

First, there's LEAVING.

A second action in becoming "one-flesh" with your mate is the matter of CLEAVING or being joined.

There's leaving, cleaving, and a third action is the development of INTIMACY.

This leads to a fourth action - TRANSPARENCY.

MARRIAGE: A Continuing Commitment